

(b) the quantity and value of the gold seized (Domestic and International) in India in 1985-86 and till October, 1987;

(c) the areas and regions where smuggling has increased;

(d) the airports where maximum seizures have been reported during the last three years; and

(e) the preventive measures taken to stop smuggling of gold and plug the loop holes in anti-smuggling measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). Since smuggling is calandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether the smuggling of gold has been increasing. However, available reports indicate that the West Coast of India, the land borders with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh and the International airports located at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum continued to be especially sensitive to the smuggling of gold into India.

The quantity and value of gold seized in India in the calender years 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto October) are given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (in kgs.)</i>	<i>Value of gold seized (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1985	2525	5189
1986	2174	4666
1987 (upto October)	1804	5001

(e) The anti-smuggling agencies are on the alert to check smuggling of contraband including gold. The emerging trends and new modus operandi are being studied and disseminated to the field formations for ob-

taining better results. Close co-ordination is also being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the prevention and detection of smuggling. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly used.

Seizure of Brown Sugar at Madras Airport

2565. SHRI N.DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether brown sugar was seized at the Madras airport during August, 1991; and

(b) if so, the quantity and value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6.035 Kgs of Heroin (which is also known as Brown Sugar) was seized at Madras International Airport by Customs authorities on 22.8.1991. No precise valuation of heroin, which is often of indeterminate chemical strength and composition, and is liable for destruction, is feasible.

Recovery of Excise Duty from Cigarette Manufacturing Companies

2566. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of excise duty outstanding against each of the cigarette manufacturing companies as on September 1, 1991;

(b) the latest position of recovery of these dues from each of these companies; and

(c) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken for their recovery?